

BILL ABBOTT

President & Chief Executive Officer

1325 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10019
OFFICE 212 445 6663

12700 Ventura Boulevard
Studio City, CA 91604
OFFICE 818 755 2670

CrownMedia
FAMILY NETWORKS

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Crown Media Family Networks, which owns and operates the Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, I am writing to support the proposed merger of Charter, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House.

As we previously have informed the Commission, Crown Media is an independent programmer. No multichannel video programming distributor or broadcaster owns an attributable ownership interest in Crown Media. We are not a media conglomerate with numerous linear channels, and we do not have leverage from any form of retransmission consent.

Charter has carried the Hallmark Channel since it launched in 2001, and also launched Hallmark Movies & Mysteries soon after it became available. In 2012, Charter retiered both the Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries to the expanded basic or equivalent tier in virtually all Charter systems. In short, Charter's distribution commitment to the Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, when measured on a penetration basis, is at the forefront of the industry.

Charter's distribution of the Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries concretely demonstrates its commitment to making a diversity of programming available to viewers. Both channels offer high quality, family friendly programming, that is inspirational, informative and entertaining -- programming that families can and will watch together. Our channels feature numerous original movies and series each year, covering a wide range of genres, including dramas, comedies, mysteries, and westerns. Right now, Hallmark Channel has started its annual countdown to Christmas, featuring 17 new original movies, as well as popular Christmas staples. During this year's countdown, Hallmark Channel has become the most-watched cable network on Saturday and Sunday nights, with 26.6 unduplicated viewers tuning in.



In short, Charter's wide-spread distribution of the Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries reflects its recognition of the value of their family content and its commitment to programming diversity. We do not have other leverage (such as retransmission consent) to force such carriage -- we must rely upon the popularity of our content.

In view of Charter's history of supporting our channels and other unaffiliated and independent programmers, we believe the proposed merger of Charter, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House will be a positive development for the Hallmark channels and other independent networks.

Sincerely,



William J. Abbott
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn (Mignon.Clyburn@fcc.gov)
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly (Michael.O'Reilly@fcc.gov)
Commissioner Ajit Pai (Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov)
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel (Jessica.Rosenworcel@fcc.gov)
Mr. Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel (TransactionTeam@fcc.gov)
Mr. Ty Bream, Media Bureau (Ty.Bream@fcc.gov)
Ms. Elizabeth McIntyre, Wireline Competition Bureau (Elizabeth.McIntyre@fcc.gov)
Mr. Adam Copeland, Wireline Competition Bureau (Adam.Copeland@fcc.gov)
Ms. Vanessa Lemme, Media Bureau (Vanessa.Lemme@fcc.gov)